

# Bear Spray

## What You Need To Know

Bear spray is a unique chemical formula designed specifically to deter aggressive or attacking bears. It must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Agricultural Department of each state. Bear spray must contain between **1% to 2% of the active ingredients capsaicin and related capsaicinoids**.

### Read the Label Carefully

To determine if you are **purchasing or selling an actual bear spray** read the label carefully. The label provides information unique to and **only allowed on bear spray**.

**1** Bear spray will clearly display on the label identifying terms such as **bear deterrent** or **for use in deterring attacks by bears**. The word "bear" can only be used on EPA registered **bear spray**.

**2** This indicates the amount of the **active ingredients, capsaicin and related capsaicinoids**, which must be between **1% and 2%**.

These active ingredients cause reduced breathing and irritation to the eyes, nose, mouth, throat and lungs, disabling and distracting the bear from its charge.

**3** The **minimum net content** for **bear spray** is **7.9 ounces** or **225 grams**.

**4** Identifies the owner of the **EPA-registered formula**.

**5** Identifies the **actual manufacturer**, the **state** in which it was manufactured **and** the number indicating the order of registration.

Bear spray should be carried in a holster and readily available at all times. Practice removing canister from holster and removing safety clip. Bear spray should **only** be used to deter charging or attacking bears.



Wildlife and bear experts, outfitters and guides recommend the following performance standards for bear spray:

- **Spray Distance**- minimum of 25 feet in order to give the bear the opportunity to stop or divert its charge
- **Canister Spray Duration**- minimum of 6 seconds, or carry two cans, in case you are charged by more than one bear, have more than one incident or to compensate for wind
- **Spray is discharged in an expanding cloud**
- A minimum net content of **7.9 oz or 225 grams**



Center For Wildlife Information

[www.BeBearAware.org](http://www.BeBearAware.org)

The Pittsburgh Foundation,  
Thyrsa W. Amos,  
Helen P. Rush, and  
Savina S. Skewis Fund

Montana Outfitters  
& Guides Association

Montana Backcountry  
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International Hunters  
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